

government and yet proved by our experience to be its best support." This week, we celebrate the enduring truth of his words.

In recognition of the importance of religious freedom and the spirit of tolerance in our society, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 331, has designated the week beginning September 23, 1990, as "Religious Freedom Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of September 23 through September 29, 1990, as Religious Freedom Week. I urge all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

**Proclamation 6182 of September 20, 1990**

**National Teacher Appreciation Day, 1990**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

The United States is currently engaged in a nationwide effort to restore excellence to our educational system. Today more and more parents, educators, and elected officials are determined to set high standards for our schools and to meet them. Recognizing the importance of learning, not only in and of itself, but also as a means of maintaining the Nation's strength and productivity in an increasingly competitive world, we have established ambitious national education goals for the year 2000. If we are to succeed, we must reaffirm our support for a group of men and women who are working hard to achieve these goals—our Nation's teachers.

Education is a lifelong process of learning and discovery that begins in a child's home and extends through years of schooling and experience. On this National Teacher Appreciation Day, we honor teachers for their unique and important role in advancing our children's education. By helping their students to grow in knowledge, skill, and reasoning ability, teachers not only open the doors of opportunity for them but also help them to become responsible, productive citizens. In this way, the dedicated men and women who educate our Nation's youth also help to shape the future of the United States. That is why their work is so important to all of us.

Whether they work in the traditional academic setting, vocational training, continuing education, or special education, teachers influence both the personal and the intellectual development of their students. Indeed, teachers who convey a genuine commitment to excellence—as well as respect for authority and a sense of responsibility and concern

for others—are among the best role models a young person can have. When a teacher cultivates in his or her students not only knowledge but also a lifelong love of learning, that teacher has given them a great and lasting gift. The work of a good teacher endures, long after his or her students have said farewell.

As we advance in years, we cannot fail to remember gratefully our best teachers—perhaps the elementary school teacher who recognized our potential and patiently helped us to develop it; or the high school English instructor who challenged and inspired us; or the college history professor who breathed life into ancient texts and enabled us to become a thrilled companion on the journeys of entire nations. We can never thank these teachers enough, and we can never fully trace the extent of their influence in our lives.

For all they do on behalf of our children and the Nation, teachers merit our abiding respect and gratitude. Let us ensure that we express both, not only on National Teacher Appreciation Day, but also throughout the year.

In grateful recognition of America's teachers, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 313, has designated October 3, 1990, as "National Teacher Appreciation Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 3, 1990, as National Teacher Appreciation Day. I urge all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6183 of September 20, 1990

### **Leif Erikson Day, 1990**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

When Leif Erikson landed in North America nearly a millennium ago, he helped to chart a course that would one day be followed by generations of brave European explorers and missionaries. He also established the first of the now centuries-old ties between the peoples of this continent and those of northern Europe.

The son of Eric the Red, who led the first group of Europeans to colonize Greenland, Leif Erikson is believed to have returned to his native Norway in the year 1000. There, according to the Icelandic Saga of Eric, the young navigator became a convert to Christianity. Later commissioned by King Olaf Tryggvason (Olaf I) to return to Greenland as a missionary, Erikson set sail once more.